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Better Water Service.

Board of Trade Favors High Pressure Fire Service System.

The Washington Board of Trade holds that the present fire service system might not be adequate to the demands of a serious fire, and an amendment to the District bill is urged, providing for the laying of a trunk water main from the Fort Reno reservoir, affording pressure high enough to shoot the water to the top of the highest buildings. The estimated cost is \$500,000.

This is a good move on the part of the Board of Trade, and the plan is endorsed by the chief of the Fire Department, who is certainly good authority on the defects of the present fire service system. The Baltimore fire may have aroused the public conscience to such an extent that the amendment will go through, though the inadequacy of the present provision for fighting fire in Washington and the failure of repeated efforts to improve it have made many people a trifle pessimistic on the subject.

Manifestly, any amount of water is of no use in fighting fire unless it can be thrown on the fire; and the number of engines provided for this purpose is at present absurdly small. The new plan will make the engines more effective, and will probably, in time, save more than it will cost. In this connection some facts brought out by recent big fires should be taken into consideration. One is that when a fire rages beyond a certain point the supply of water sometimes gives out, and all possible precaution should therefore be taken to guard against this danger. Another is that unless the supply of water is adequate, the flames are not quenched, but rather increased, owing to the disintegration of the water into gases, which feed the flames.

Sympathy for Russia.

Grounds on Which It Seems to Be Based at Present.

A prominent public man is said to have expressed the opinion that within a year the sympathies of this country will have veered round to Russia, if her present struggle with Japan shall last so long. The reasons which he gave, while they have rather the appearance of having been scraped up with more zeal than intelligence, are yet interesting. The Times prophesied some time ago that such a reversal of popular sentiment might apparently take place, but an apparent change of sentiment is not always a real one.

The reasons given by this statesman are, in brief, three: First, that Russia is a Christian nation; second, that Japan, if her present struggle with Japan shall last so long, will absorb the markets of the East and keep out the United States; third, that the temper of Japan is such that she will become aggressive if victorious, and we shall have to fight her.

The appeal for Russia as a Christian nation has been pretty nearly worn threadbare already. Is it not time for this world to outgrow the holy war idea? Are we still in the days of the Crusades? Moreover, are we satisfied with the kind of Christianity which Russia dispenses? In fact, do we know anything favorable about it thus far? Other things might be said, but let us have adequate answers to these questions first.

It may be true, though there is no good reason to suppose so, that Japan would like to absorb Chinese trade and interfere with foreign markets there; but is that a good reason for allowing Russia to monopolize the East? There is a sort of abstract justice in Japan's desire to control the Orient; the Mongolian certainly has a right to manage his own business if he is capable of it, and thus far there is nothing to show that he is incapable. Nobody asserts that Japan wants to control Russia or colonize Siberia; and there is not even any good reason for supposing that she contemplates anything but a defensive alliance with China. In short, Japan's motto seems to be at present, "The East for Easterners," and surely we are the last people in the world to find fault with that attitude, especially considering our laws regarding Chinese immigration.

There is absolutely nothing thus far

to show that Japan wants to fight this or any European country save the one which has threatened her interests. We shall make a mistake if we judge the Japanese by ourselves, and a greater mistake if we assume the attitude of a few hotheads to be our own. A country can be full of martial ardor, active and competent in war, and proud of success, and yet not want to go out and conquer the earth. Even Napoleon, the bete noir of so many anti-military cranks, became the overshadowing terror that he was, more in defense of France than otherwise. There is little reason to doubt that had a great military and civil genius not arisen to bring France out of chaos, several powerful countries were waiting to decide her fate without her consent. The Japanese are eager for glory, but they are also, let us hope, wise enough to know that the chip on the shoulder attitude will cause a coalition against them. Thus far they have seemed to seek the favor of the world, not its antagonism; there is no reason to suppose that they will change their course in the near future.

Criminal Evasion.

The Sin of Keeping Merely the Letter of the Law.

One of the things which have come to light regarding the Darlington catastrophe is a deliberate dodging of the real requirements of the law, and keeping of the letter, which suggests some of the difficulties in the way of an honest building inspector. In some things the builders frankly violated the law, and went on doing so after repeated warnings; but in one respect they complied with it. It is doubtful, however, whether the kind of compliance shown by them is any more creditable or desirable than open refusal to obey the law. It is certainly less safe for the public.

This rule which they obeyed to the letter was the one regulating the height of the building. The law requires that buildings 150 feet high shall be built of fireproofing, which is considerably more expensive than the framework which the Allison Company used. But they kept within the law. Instead of making their twelve-story apartment house 150 feet high, they planned to have it 149 feet, 6 inches. It is said that an inch on the end of a man's nose makes a decided difference, but it is hard to see how six inches in the height of a twelve-story building will make much difference in its comparative safety or unsafety. However, the building, if honestly constructed, with scrupulous regard to the law, might have been all right even if it was as near the limit as possible. But it was not so constructed. Having complied with the law in regard to the height—a matter in which violation could easily be proved after the completion of the structure, by use of a string and a rule—the builders proceeded to evade and violate every other provision of the building regulations in ways which could not easily have been discovered after the addition of lath and plaster. What is to be said of such reckless rascality as this?

The Eight-Hour Day.

Mr. Cowles Says Eight Hours a Day Is "Loafing."

In connection with a discussion on the labor question, W. B. Cowles, of Cleveland, Ohio, recently said that a man who worked only eight hours a day was merely loafing, and that the other countries would get ahead of us and capture our markets if we did not take care. At least, that was the substance of his argument.

Mr. Cowles is an employer of labor, and doubtless knew, or thought he knew, what he was talking about; but with all respect to his opinion, the men who have been urging the eight-hour day know more about it. They have not fought their fight without some reason. The reason lies in the changed conditions of labor, in the improvement and specialization of machinery, and in the progress of the country.

It is true, of course, that in the early days of this country's development the average man worked a good deal more than eight hours a day, just as all farmers do now, and that it did not injure his health in most cases. But working on a farm, and for one's self, as these men usually did, is different from working in a factory as part of a gang. The variety of farm labor, its healthful character, and the opportunity it affords for ingenuity, contrivance, and enterprise to a man who likes that sort of work, make such employments the very opposite of tending a machine every week day the year round, and going home at night to a city house or tenement or room. If we are to have the right sort of American workmen, they must have time for something besides work, food, and sleep. The best type of mechanic, the man who is worth most to his employer and his country,

is the man who has his own home, preferably in a suburb, who cultivates and improves it with his own hands, and spends his evenings doing odds and ends of gardening or carpenter work, romping with his children, or reading. He cannot have this leisure time, so valuable to himself and his family, if he uses every bit of force he has in keeping abreast of his work. Some men in every community, of course, must sacrifice themselves to their work, must renounce private enjoyment and family life, at least for a time; but a place in which the mass of the workingmen live in this way is likely, before long, to be a bad place to live in at all.

The labor unions have a right to ask, under present conditions, for short working hours. The condition of our people is of more moment than the amount of our exports in any given year. To exhaust the vitality of one generation is to rob the next. If we find ourselves, thirty years from now, with a population strong, healthy, intelligent, and full of progressive spirit, the future will take care of itself. If, by long hours under the hard conditions of modern factory and mine work, the masses of workingmen should be stunted, dulled, and overworked, the future might take care of itself in a way we should not like.

White House Junk.

The Action of Mrs. Roosevelt in Saving White House China.

The reported determination of Mrs. Roosevelt to save as much of the historic china of the White House as possible, and keep it on exhibition, ought to soothe somewhat the souls of the people who felt so angry about the clearing out of White House junk in the shape of mantels, sideboards, and chairs. The lady of the White House recognizes the historic interest of the remnants of sets of china used at former state banquets, and, while, for present use, she prefers to have her china match, instead of using sets compiled from historic pieces, she is said to be bent on preserving these pieces and resending any others which may be kicking about in junk shops. Former Presidents and their wives may not have cleared out as much furniture as the present occupants of the White House did in their endeavors to bring the mansion into harmony with its uses, but they appear to have had no scruple in getting rid of old china.

It ought to be obvious to anybody with two grains of sense that if the present-giving disposition of the American people continues healthy and the country continues prosperous, the White House must in time be so full of presentation sets of furniture that there will be no room for the President and his family. Doubtless the simple-minded man who gave the Cleveland a set of dining-room chairs with the countenance of Mrs. Cleveland pictured in embossed leather on the seats would feel hurt if he knew these chairs were not used, or at least kept; but what is to be done about it? Is the President to make the White House a museum of furniture, and china, and knick-knacks, and lions, and rascals, and bears, and live in a tent in his back yard?

Dewey is going to Santo Domingo to see about it. Now will little brother be good?

Opinions differ about the President's office being a high one. Certain legislators seem to think it is a low-down little shanty.

It is to be noted that the President's views on race suicide do not lead him to compliment a citizen of Utah, who is raising five families at once and does not exactly know how large they are.

The remains of Columbus are in Santo Domingo, the natives say, and yet they seem not to be afraid of ghosts.

It is queer, but in all these hot controversies about the duty of siding with Russia nobody has proved that Russia was right in this particular fuss.

There will be no Midway at the St. Louis Fair; only a plain, every-day Pike; but it is not thought that the alphabetical societies will approve it any more by its new name.

TOAST TO POVERTY.

I do not curse my poverty.
It has its better points;
No gout has ever come my way
To stiffen up my joints.

I do not, all the long, long night,
All anxious lie awake
And wonder what the chances are
For that fool bank to break.

I do not go about with black
Hell-goggles on my nose—
My coat of arms a monkey wrench
And gaudy clothes.

I do not have to dress and go
Somewhere o' nights and stay
Till 12 o'clock, and stand it while
They talk me old and gray.

Chorus! I put my feet upon
My old typewriter, and
I smoke my pipe and thank my stars
That I can understand

Why Providence all-wise has cast
My lot where sunbeams fall;
A toast to Poverty! It has
Its good points after all!

—San Francisco Bulletin.

THE PERSONAL SIDE

Woman Civil Service Applicant Can Play "Bedelia"—Elevator Guards at the Postoffice. . . .

Listed Accomplishments.

Applicants for positions under the Civil Service Commission are supplied with slips upon which they are asked to make a full statement of their qualifications for the position sought. In addition to the branches really necessary for the contemplated work, the applicants are granted an opportunity to write what subjects they know and these are considered in judging the fitness of candidates.

An application from a young woman living in a Western city, which is out of the ordinary, reached the Civil Service Commission a short time ago. She is seeking a place as a stenographer, and accomplished in addition to the regular subjects required are listed as follows:

"Have fine touch and can play 'Bedelia' and many other new tunes with musical expression. Am a light dancer. Knows the two-step and waltz and other dances which are now danced at polite balls, such as the Oxford minuet. Also an expert basketball player, and have played as a back on a champion team for two years. Can sing well and cultivate my voice by the vocal method. If you have a place in an Indian school for a stenographer, I would prefer it, as I am thoroughly qualified to teach Indian girls how to deport themselves in the society of ladies and gentlemen."

Not for the Taps.

Though a Southerner and an ex-Confederate, W. G. Coleman, general assessor of the Southern Air Line in Washington, is not pro-Japanese in his sentiments. He announced his reasons for holding Russia in esteem at a recent banquet given to New England station agents in Boston, at which he was a guest of honor. Mr. Coleman is quoted as follows in the Boston Herald:

"What I think that England, France, and Spain were with us in those days of the war between the States, they asked Russia to join with them and recognize us, and Russia said 'No, I am amazed to find such a sentiment expressed here."

"If Russia had then joined, we should have overrun your country. With the backing of those four great powers this grand country would have been divided, and the South would have been worse off than she has ever been in her history. For one, I am glad we didn't win the war, and I am glad we refused to go with the three other powers."

He said that he had been detailed in the Spanish war at Washington to look after the getting of troops to the front, being an old graduate of West Point himself, and that he had gone out to the Philippines as a volunteer, and there the Japs had been most active in supplying the enemies of this country with arms and munitions of war. When this country absorbed Hawaii it was Japan who gave it the most trouble.

"I am glad that the sentiment of the under dog, turn down the grandest friend this country ever had during the civil war."

Watch at Postoffice.

The effect of the tragedy at the War Department upon the minds of Government officials is shown at the Postoffice Department. Watchmen appeared at 9 o'clock near the elevators on the first floor to keep careful eye on those going to the upper floors of the building. Heretofore this surveillance began at 10 o'clock each afternoon, the time of closing the building to visitors who had no business to transact, and was merely for the purpose of keeping out sight-seers and idlers.

Now, however, an order has been issued to keep a sharp watch at each elevator shaft throughout the day to keep tabs on everybody that comes in, and to stop those whose appearances are against them. Anyone who appears to be worse for wear or not quite right, or who looks in any way suspicious, will be held up and prevented from ascending to upper stories on possible gunning expeditions.

Exit "El Mocho."

In the departure of General Hernandez, Venezuelan minister, the Washington colony of South American diplomats loses one of its most picturesque figures. Tall, thin, erect as a soldier, arched from exposure to a tropical sun in many battles, General Hernandez had a striking personality which at once gave him a place of distinction among his associates. General Hernandez cared much for the role of a diplomat. He only took it because in Venezuela a man who refuses an office tendered to him by the President is considered an enemy of the government.

Defeated in his ambition as head of the Nationalist party "El Mocho" had to bow to President Castro's will and come to the United States. He was given the name of "El Mocho," "The Cripple," by the South Americans, on account of an injury to his hand, which is crippled as the result of a bullet wound received in his early revolutionary days. General Hernandez has a remarkable record as a South American fighter. In Venezuela's most turbulent days, when soldiering was the principal industry, "El Mocho" was in the thick of it, and his prowess, penmanship, and mastery of men soon made him a popular hero.

WYMAN WILL PROTECT PORTS OF THE ISTHMUS

Surgeon General Wyman has sent a circular letter to commissioned medical officers and all others serving in foreign ports and ports in the possessions of the United States, informing them that the Minister of Panama has requested, through the Department of State, that United States medical officers at consular ports in foreign countries be instructed to act in regard to vessels sailing for Panama ports as they do in regard to vessels sailing for the United States.

The Secretary of the Treasury informed the State Department that instructions will be sent to medical officers accordingly and the necessary directions are given by Dr. Wyman in his circular. The instructions are intended to apply especially to officials in South American ports and those in Central America and the West Indies.

IN THE CIRCLE OF SOCIETY

Dinners, Teas, and Other Festivities of Society People.

Elihu Root Guest in Palatial Home of Henry Flagler.

Henry M. Flagler, whose palatial home at Palm Beach, has been the scene of many entertainments since the season in the South began, gave one of his famous stag dinners last evening. The affair was in honor of ex-Secretary of War Elihu Root. The dinner was given in the banquet room of "Whitehall," and the table was set with much costly china, glassware, and gold plate; the gold candelabra which held one hundred candles were also used.

Among other guests were Lyman Gage, former Secretary of the Treasury; Joseph Jefferson and Frederick T. Martin.

Representative Longworth entertained a party at dinner at the Alibi Club last evening.

The guests included Representative and Mrs. Harrison, the latter serving as chaperon to the Misses King, of Albany, who are spending the winter in Washington; Miss Rose Wallach, Miss Winchell, and the table was set with much costly china, glassware, and gold plate; the gold candelabra which held one hundred candles were also used.

Major von Etzel, the military attaché of the German embassy, entertained at a small tea yesterday afternoon in honor of Lady Durand and Miss Durand, who are old friends of Major von Etzel, he having, like the British ambassador, served several years at Madrid before coming to Washington.

R. D. I. Mohun, of Washington, is among the passengers who are booked to sail on the St. Louis, which leaves New York for Southampton today.

YEAR'S CHANGES IN THE LOWER HOUSE

Four Members Have Died, Three Resigned, One Was Unseated, and Another Gave Up to Contestant.

The first half of the term of the present House of Representatives expired yesterday. During the year only nine changes have been made in the membership of that body, which, considering its membership of 385, is considered remarkably small. Of these four have been caused by death, three by reason of resignation of members elected, one has been unseated, and another given his place, and another against whom a contest was made voluntarily retired and permitted the contestant to have his seat.

The first change occurred by reason of the death of the Hon. Vincent Borah, the lone Republican from Kentucky, who represented the Eleventh district of that State in the Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh Congresses. His seat is now held by Dr. W. Godfrey Hunter, a former member of the House, and former minister to Guatemala. His election is contested by another Republican, D. C. Edwards. The district embracing the mountain region of the Blue Grass State is so strongly Republican that the Democrats made no nomination, but two Republicans ran against Dr. Hunter, the third one being John D. White. It is not likely that Dr. Hunter will lose his seat.

Death of Feederer.

The next change made was caused by the death of Representative Robert H. Feederer, of the Fourth district of Pennsylvania, embracing a part of the city of Philadelphia. Mr. Feederer had served two terms as a Representative at large from Pennsylvania, and when the State was divided into new districts was returned from the Fourth. His place was filled last November by the election of the Hon. Reuben E. Moon, also a Republican, against whom the Democrats made no nomination.

The next member to die was the Hon. W. W. Skiles, of the Fourteenth district of Ohio. He was serving his second term in the House. His seat is still vacant, no election having been held to determine his successor.

Mr. Burk's Vacancy.

The fourth member to be shunned by death was the Hon. Henry Burk, of the Third district of Pennsylvania. He represented the district from which came Samuel J. Randall for many years came to Congress. Prior to the election of Mr. Burk, the district had been generally returned a Democrat, the Republicans making no nominations, and allowing the Democrats to name a protectionist and elect him without opposition. After the death of Mr. Burk the Democrats made an effort to recapture the district by the nomination of Mr. Randall's son, Mr. Randall was defeated, however, and the Hon. George A. Caster, Republican, was chosen to succeed Mr. Burk. He took the oath of office last Monday.

Of the members who have died since their election, Mr. Skiles was the only one who was formally sworn in. The others either died before the first session began or were unable to be present after it was convened.

Three resignations have occurred. The Hon. Thomas H. Ball of Texas was the first to voluntarily retire from the House. He did so in order to devote his attention to private business. Mr. Ball resigned within ten days after the extra session was called, and he is succeeded by the Hon. John M. Pinckney, who is also a Democrat.

Mr. Gill Resigns.

The next man to resign was the Hon. Joseph H. Gill, Republican, of the Sixth district of Ohio, who was serving his third term as a member of the House. He likewise retired on account of the fact that his Congressional duties interfered with his business relations. The vacancy thus caused was filled by the election of the Hon. Capell Weems, also a Republican.

The Hon. George B. McClellan, Jr., resigned his seat in the House, after having served for ten years as a member of Congress, in order to become mayor of New York city. His place is now filled by the Hon. W. Bourke Cockran, who has already been elected.

SOCIAL EVENTS HERE AND THERE

A Brilliant Ball at the American Legation in Stockholm.

The United States Minister to Sweden and Mrs. Thomas gave a brilliant ball on Friday evening at the American legation, in Stockholm.

The apartments were decorated with quantities of flowers and draped with the American, Swedish, and Norwegian flags.

Among the guests were Prince Carl, son of King Oscar, and Princess Ingeborg, his wife; members of the Swedish and Norwegian cabinets, diplomatic representatives, and the most prominent people in the society of Stockholm.

The ball was opened by Prince Carl and Mrs. Thomas.

Wilford Russell, of London, who gave a number of song recitals in Washington last spring, is now in the South, where he is giving a series of concerts.

Mrs. F. B. Shaw and M. B. Shaw, of this city, will sail on the Finland, which leaves New York for Antwerp today.

Miss Lillian Whiting will give a reading today in the reading room for the blind in the Library of Congress, instead of Mrs. John C. Poor, Mrs. Poor having kindly given away to Miss Whiting, it being the only day that she could devote to the entertainment of the blind.

The Secretary of War has gone to New York to attend the annual banquet of the Ohio Society, on which occasion he will deliver an address.

Justice and Mrs. Anderson have, also, gone to New York to be present at the banquet.

Joseph Leiter, of Chicago, is spending a few days in Washington with his father.

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but who has not yet taken the oath of office. This he will do as soon as the vote is canvassed, and the governor issues the certificate of election to him. Mr. Cockran had no Republican opposition.

Two men who were members of the House have been unseated by a vote of the House. The Hon. George Howell, Democrat, of the Tenth district of Pennsylvania, was the first thus to lose his seat. It is now held by the Hon. William Connell, Republican, who was declared to have been legally elected instead of Howell.

The Hon. John F. Shafroth, Democrat, of Colorado, against whom a contest was made by the Hon. A. W. Bonnyage, Republican, on the ground of fraud, personally investigated the charge, and, reaching the conclusion that it was founded in fact, and that he had not been legally elected, asked the House to unseat him, and give the place to his opponent.

CANAL COMMISSION CENTER OF INTEREST

Members of Congress Seek Places for Their Constituents—Admiral Walker Busy With Preliminary Work.

The office of the Panama Canal Commission at Pennsylvania Avenue and Fifteenth Street is the mecca for members of Congress now, and Admiral Walker, chairman of the commission, is kept busy hearing them. Then wait jobs for the constituents.

Telegrams have been sent to all the members of the commission asking them when they can report in Washington for a formal meeting. Only two of the seven members live in Washington, and only two are heard from. It will not be possible to set the date for the first meeting.

Admiral Walker said this morning that there was no change in the plan of sailing for Panama on March 22, if that can be done, as he is anxious to get to the scene at once and hurry the preliminary measures which are to be taken for the protection of the health of the troops and laborers.

Major George A. Davis, the other member of this commission who lives in Washington, is holding daily conferences with the admiral, and they will have many of the outlines of the preliminary work completed by the time the four other members arrive.

Another expert who will go to Panama is Rear Admiral P. M. Rixey, Surgeon General of the Navy, who will look over the ground in the interest of the health of the troops and marines to be stationed there.

SONG OF THE MILLS.

I. They're bringin' of the cotton mills to where the cotton grows;
The snowflakes of New England fall 'round the Georgia roses;
From the winter cold they're comin', they're bringin' of the cotton mills to where the cotton grows.

II. They've heard the word of welcome, as it passed from mouth to mouth;
They've turned their eyes to bluer skies; they're headin' fer the South!
They're all a-croakin' of the line, where old Potomac flows—
They're bringin' of the cotton mills to where the cotton grows.

III. An' soon you'll see the spinners—hear the whizzin' of the wheels,
As they blossom with the cotton of a hundred thousand fields;
An' you'll hear the silver jingle, and you'll tingle to your toes.
Fer they're bringin' of the cotton mills to where the cotton grows.

—Stanton, in Atlanta Constitution.

Trips, Visits, Euchre, and Opening of New Homes.

Mrs. Westinghouse Taking Friends to the Pacific Slope.

Mrs. Westinghouse, accompanied by Miss Rachel Aiken, of Pittsburgh, and Miss Margaret Wadsworth, of New York, passed through Washington yesterday in a private car, the Princess Anne, on their way to California and Mexico. Mrs. Westinghouse will return East about April 15, when she will take her Washington home for a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kelly, of Twenty-second Street, entertained at a euchre party last evening in honor of their daughter, Miss Margaret Kelly. The prizes were won by Miss Smith and J. Garthland, the booty falling to the lot of Miss M. Carr and Mr. Collins.

Those present were Miss Carr, Miss Smith, Miss O'Brien, Miss Jones, Miss Purcell, Miss Franks, Mr. Garthland, Mr. Sparshott, Mr. Collins, and Mr. Franks.

Dr. MacNaughton and Miss MacNaughton have reopened their home in Harvard Street, where they will be glad to see their friends.

Major Ferguson, former United States minister to Sweden, has returned from a visit to Savannah and Charleston, S. C.

Dr. and Mrs. J. Millar Ramsay, formerly at 117 Eleventh Street northwest, have moved to 10 Florida Avenue northwest, where they will be at home after March 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Bell are spending a week at Pinehurst, N. C. On Tuesday Miss Helen and Miss Grace Bell will sail with a party of friends for the West Indies.

TAXATION IN DISTRICT.

To the Editor of The Washington Times: The question of taxing church property is an interesting and important one. It is destined to awaken thought and promote discussion on the wisdom and justice of taxing not only church property, but any improvement that adds to the wealth of the community. The Times says: "Religious property in the District amounts to \$5,500,000. Such organizations as the National Training School for Deaf-mutes, and Missionaries, and the Baptist Ministers' Union, are now applying to have property belonging to them freed from all tax obligations. This means, in other words, that the other property owners of the community are expected to help to support these two organizations to the amount of the exempted taxes."

But \$5,500,000 is a mere trifle compared with the taxable property which escapes taxation by reason of under assessment. That there are hundreds of millions of dollars that escape taxation in this way is a matter of public record. The exemption from taxation of the property of the religious institutions does not retard the growth nor obstruct the natural development of the city. It does not lessen the production nor cause an inequitable distribution of wealth. It does not increase rents, produce idleness, and diminish the volume of business as does the taxation of improvements and discrimination in favor of land speculators, who will not raise their hands and hold no permit others to do so unless a speculative price is paid for it.

It is an alarming and deplorable fact that the speculative advance of land values has made the erection of small houses financially impossible. Consequently there is a serious want of six and seven room houses in this city. And it is this speculative advance of land values which plants the noxious slum behind the stately mansion. Now if the Times, which has accomplished so much for the District under its new management, will open its columns to a discussion of the present system of taxation and assessment, it will render a worthy service to the District, to its readers, and to the business community. The social conditions already produced by our present unjust and absurd system of taxation is a disgrace to any civilized city, not to say the Capital of the foremost nation on earth. If this city is to be what its founders intended it should be, then we must change our system of taxation and assessment.

Now as there is a natural way of satisfying natural want, there must be a natural way of raising public revenue. That way, of course, must conform to the moral and rest upon the substance of justice. It must not obstruct the production nor cause an unjust distribution of wealth. It must not discourage the industries nor punish the economical. It must hold out no incentives to bribery, perjury, or any manner of wrongdoing. It must be a fair and equitable act of justice. It must be certain, bear equally and be easily and cheaply collected.

It is evident the way or system which would fulfill these requirements would be the really scientific or to its means of raising public revenue. The only method that will fulfill these requirements is the taxation of land, rather than improvements. That the value which attaches to land is the natural fund from which the Capital of the foremost nation is shown by the fact that land values are created by the community and are not public expenditures, and therefore, no need for public revenues. But as population increases and industry develops, public expenditures are necessary, and these must be